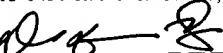




Ap 1725 / DPE

Docket No.: 4296-136 US

The undersigned certifies that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as prepaid first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 10, 2004.

  
Diane Dunn McKay

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: : Customer No.  
MATSUMOTO et al. : 26817  
Serial No.: 09/845,694 : Group Art Unit: 1725  
Filed: April 30, 2001 : Examiner: McHENRY, Kevin L.  
Title: METHOD FOR STARTING UP : Confirmation No. 2658  
REACTOR AND REACTOR SYSTEM x

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In a September 10, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following groups:

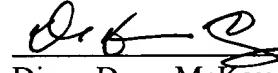
- I. Claims 1-7 drawn to a method for starting up a reactor, classified in Class 422, subclass 109.
- II. Claim 8, drawn to a method for making methacrylic acid or methacrolein, classified in class 562, subclass 518.
- III. Claims 9-14, drawn to reactor systems, classified in class 422, subclass 201.

Applicants hereby elect with traverse Group II, claim 8, drawn to a method for making methacrylic acid or methacrolein, classified in class 562, subclass 518, for prosecution in this application. Applicants submit that a search of Group II would uncover the method or systems of Groups I and III. Applicants respectfully request the right to file a divisional application directed to the nonelected claims.

A prompt action on the merits is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should he believe this would expedite prosecution of this application. It is believed no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 10, 2004

  
Diane Dunn McKay  
Reg. No. 34,586  
Attorney for Applicant

MATHEWS, COLLINS, SHEPHERD & McKAY, P.A.  
100 Thanet Circle, Suite 306  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
Tel: 609 924 8555  
Fax: 609 924 3036